

Docket No. 271939US6PCT



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PCT

MAIL STOP PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Jean-Marc GOUBOT, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/534,539

GAU:

FILED: May 12, 2005

EXAMINER:

FOR: BARREL HANDLING DEVICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

**REFERENCES**

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references cited in the International Search Report and listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**RELATED CASES**

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s), published application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. In accordance with the waiver of 37 CFR 1.98 dated September 21, 2004, copies of the cited pending applications are not provided. Cited published and/or issued patents, if any, are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**CERTIFICATION**

- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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| Form PTO 1449<br>(Modified)  |    | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE |          | ATTY DOCKET NO.<br>271939US6PCT |                 | SERIAL NO.<br>10/534,539   |                            |
|--|----|--|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|----------------------------|
| LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT  |    | APPLICANT  |          | Jean-Marc GOUBOT, et al.        |                 |  |                            |
|  |    | FILING DATE  |          | GROUP                           |                 |  |                            |
| May 12, 2005   |    |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |    |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
| EXAMINER INITIAL   |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER  | DATE     | NAME                            | CLASS           | SUB CLASS  | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|  | AA | 4 850 627  | 07/25/89 | FRANKLIN                        |                 |  |                            |
|  | AB | 4 151 983  | 05/01/79 | STOCK et al.                    |                 |  |                            |
|  | AC | 5 310 304  | 05/10/94 | BAUMGARTNER                     |                 |  |                            |
|  | AD | 2 783 078  | 02/26/57 | BILLNER                         |                 |  |                            |
|  | AE |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AF |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AG |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AH |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AI |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AJ |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AK |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AL |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AM |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AN |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>  |    |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER  | DATE     | COUNTRY                         | TRANSLATION     |  |                            |
|  | AO | 0 633 215  | 01/11/95 | EP                              | YES             | NO   | NO                         |
|  | AP | 36 36 016  | 05/11/88 | DE                              |                 |  | NO                         |
|  | AQ | 240 449  | 11/08/11 | DE                              |                 |  | NO                         |
|  | AR |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AS |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AT |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AU |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AV |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
| <b>OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b>   |    |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AW |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AX |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AY |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |
|  | AZ |  |          |                                 |                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached |                            |
| Examiner   |    |  |          |                                 | Date Considered |  |                            |
| *Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |    |  |          |                                 |                 |  |                            |

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

AO EP 0 633 215

1) EP 633 215 A (CEA) relates to drum handling and comprises an upper suction device 1 and a shaft enveloping the drum to be seized. The shaft is connected to the suction device by radial bars 4 and its lower ring has catches 10 moved by a spring 13 towards the interior of the shaft, but which are retractable on receiving an upwardly directed thrust. When the shaft covers a drum the state of the two halves shown in fig. 2 is reached. The catches rub against the drum whilst being retracted into their recess prior to touching the ground and are then separated from the drum by a supplementary retraction rotation produced by their heel 19 touching the ground.

The remainder of the process is illustrated on both halves in fig. 3. The suction device seizes the drum and raises it somewhat above the catches 10 and when the system is refitted the catches are able to tilt under the action of springs 13 below the lower surface of the drum.

*of interest*  
This system is ~~referred~~, but is more basic than that of the present invention. In particular, the suction device and shaft are integral with one another, so that the first raising of the drum must take place by the suction device alone in order to free it from the catches and obtain the state of the left-hand half of fig. 3. In addition, the shaft must be adapted to the drum height.

AP DE 36 36 016

3) DE 36 36 016 A (KERNFORSCHUNGSSANLAGE JÜLICH): Another drum handling system involving the gripping of an upper flange of the drum is described. However, here the flange 32 has an inwardly directed rim and the system plate is introduced into it, the means used being fingers tilting towards the outside on pivoting about vertical axes 24 or 25. A control rod 11 moves the members 18, which force out the tilting fingers referred to hereinbefore. Fig. 5 illustrates a locking position.

AQ DE 240 449

2) DE 240 449 C (ZOBEL, NEUBERT & CO.): The handling and lifting device comprises two drums d and i intended to lower either two concentric lifting devices at once or only one of them.